

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-17 (cancelled)

Claim 18 (currently amended): An oral care dentifrice composition comprising:

- (a) from ~~about 7% to about 25%, 1% to 40%~~, by weight of the composition, of a retentive agent comprising hydroxyethylcellulose and carboxymethylcellulose, selected from the group consisting of water-soluble hydrophilic gums, water-soluble hydrophilic polymers, and mixtures thereof, the retentive agent having the property of hydrating upon exposure to water or saliva; and
- (b) a topical, oral care carrier selected from the group consisting of a flavor, sensate, foaming agent, abrasive, buffer, and mixtures thereof;

wherein the composition is a non-cariogenic, chewable solid unit dosage form; and wherein the composition forms an intact hydrated mass that is visible on 2 to 3 molar or premolar surfaces to greater than 7 molar or premolar surfaces for 5 minutes to 60 minutes after a human subject chews two tablets of the composition for 5 to 30 seconds, brushes his or her teeth with a manual, flat head, soft toothbrush for 30 seconds, expectorates the slurry created from the brushing, and then rinses with 10 ml of water and expectorates again.

Claim 19 (previously presented): The composition of claim 18 wherein the composition forms an intact hydrated mass that is visible on 4 to 5 molar or premolar surfaces to greater than 7 molar or premolar surfaces for 5 minutes to 60 minutes after a human subject chews

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two tablets of the composition for 5 to 30 seconds, brushes his or her teeth with a manual, flat head, soft toothbrush for 30 seconds, expectorates the slurry created from the brushing, and then rinses with 10 ml of water and expectorates again.

Claim 20 (previously presented): The composition of claim 18 wherein from 0.5% to 20% by weight of the initial composition deposits in some of the tooth surfaces after chewing by the subject.

Claim 21 (currently amended): The composition of claim 18 wherein the retentive agent ~~is at a level of from~~ comprises from about 4% to about 15% hydroxyethylcellulose and from about 3% to about 10% carboxymethylcellulose, 7% to 30%, by weight of the composition.

Claim 22 (canceled):

Claim 23 (canceled):

Claim 24 (original): The composition of claim 18 wherein the composition additionally comprises a safe and effective amount of an oral care active agent selected from the group consisting of anticalculus agent, fluoride ion source, antimicrobial agents, dentinal desensitizing agents, anesthetic agents, antifungal agents, anti-inflammatory agents, selective H-2 antagonists, anticaries agents, remineralization agents, whitening agents, and mixtures thereof.

Claim 25 (original): The composition of claim 24 wherein the oral care active agent is a fluoride ion source.

Claim 26 (original): The composition of claim 24 wherein the solid unit dosage form is a compressed tablet.

Claim 27 (original): The composition of claim 18 wherein the composition is non-effervescent.

Claim 28 (currently amended): A method of buffering the oral cavity saliva or environment on or at the tooth surfaces of a subject in need thereof, to a pH from 7 to 12, for at least 2 minutes, by administering topically to the oral cavity, an oral care composition, comprising:

- (a) ~~from 1% to 40%, by weight of the composition, of a retentive agent comprising from about 7% to about 25% hydroxyethylcellulose and carboxymethylcellulose, by weight of the composition, selected from the group consisting of water soluble hydrophilic gums, water soluble hydrophilic polymers, and mixtures thereof,~~ the retentive agent having the property of hydrating upon exposure to water or saliva; and
- (b) a buffer; and
- (c) a topical, oral care carrier;

wherein the composition is a non-cariogenic, chewable solid unit dosage form and the composition comprises less than 65% by weight of water insoluble particulates and the composition forms an intact hydrated mass that is visible on 2 to 3 molar or premolar surfaces to greater than 7 molar or premolar surfaces for 5 minutes to 60 minutes after a human subject chews two tablets of the composition for 5 to 30 seconds, brushes his or her teeth with a manual, flat head, soft toothbrush for 30 seconds, expectorates the slurry created from the brushing, and then rinses with 10 ml of water and expectorates again.

Claim 29 (previously presented): The method of claim 28 wherein the pH is from 7.5 to 10.

Claim 30 (cancelled)

Claim 31 (original): The method of claim 28 wherein the composition is non-effervescent.

Claim 32 (currently amended): A method of providing sustained delivery of an oral care active, in the oral cavity of a subject in need thereof, for the treatment or prevention of an oral condition alone or for promoting whole body health, by administering topically an oral care composition comprising:

- (a) ~~from 1% to 40%, by weight of the composition, of a retentive agent comprising from about 7% hydroxyethylcellulose and about 4% carboxymethylcellulose, by weight of the composition, selected from the group consisting of water soluble hydrophilic gums, water soluble hydrophilic polymers, and mixtures thereof,~~ the retentive agent having the property of hydrating upon exposure to water or saliva;
- (b) an oral care active; and
- (c) a topical, oral care carrier;

wherein the composition is a non-cariogenic, chewable solid unit dosage form, the composition forms an intact hydrated mass that is visible on 2 to 3 molar or premolar surfaces to greater than 7 molar or premolar surfaces for 5 minutes to 60 minutes after a human subject chews two tablets of the composition for 5 to 30 seconds, brushes his or her teeth with a manual, flat head, soft toothbrush for 30 seconds, expectorates the slurry created from the brushing, and then rinses with 10 ml of water and expectorates again, and the composition comprises less than 65% by weight of water insoluble particulates; and wherein the composition is non-effervescent.

Claim 33 (cancelled)

Claim 34 (currently amended): A method of providing sustained delivery of a flavor, sensate or buffer, in the oral cavity of a subject in need thereof, by administering topically an oral care composition comprising:

- (a) ~~from 1% to 40%, by weight of the composition, of a retentive agent comprising about 7% hydroxyethylcellulose and about 4% carboxymethylcellulose, by weight of the composition, selected from the group consisting of water soluble hydrophilic gums, water soluble hydrophilic polymers, and mixtures thereof,~~ the retentive agent having the property of hydrating upon exposure to water or saliva;
- (b) an oral care active; and
- (c) a topical, oral care carrier elected from the group consisting of a flavor, sensate, buffer and mixtures thereof;

wherein the composition is a non-cariogenic, chewable solid unit dosage form, the composition forms an intact hydrated mass that is visible on 2 to 3 molar or premolar surfaces to greater than 7 molar or premolar surfaces for 5 minutes to 60 minutes after a human subject chews two tablets of the composition for 5 to 30 seconds, brushes his or her teeth with a manual, flat head, soft toothbrush for 30 seconds, expectorates the slurry created from the brushing, and then rinses with 10 ml of water and expectorates again, and the composition comprises less than 65% by weight of water insoluble particulates; and wherein the composition is non-effervescent.

Claim 35 (cancelled)

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Claim 36 (new): The composition of claim 18 wherein the retentive agent comprises about 7% hydroxyethylcellulose and about 4% carboxymethylcellulose, by weight of the composition.